

## State of Connecticut

HOUSE DEMOCRATS  
LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BLDG. ROOM 4100  
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT 06106

Testimony by:  
Rep. Henry Genga, 10<sup>th</sup> District - East Hartford  
&  
Rep. Jack Thompson, 13<sup>th</sup> District - Manchester

H.B. 5553: An Act Concerning Substance Abuse Programs

March 29, 2012

Senator Coleman, Representative Fox, Honorable members of the Judiciary Committee,

For the record, we are Representatives Henry Genga, serving East Hartford, and Jack Thompson, serving Manchester.

We are here testifying in support of H.B. 5553 – An Act Concerning Substance Abuse Programs.

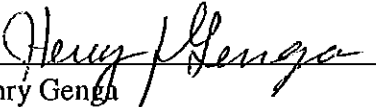
On January 1, 2012 the repeal of 14-227f took effect, which created a pool of individuals who never went through the mandated Multiple Offender Drunken Driving Program that is administered by the Department of Motor Vehicles. According to Commissioner Melody Currey, this number is approximately 21,000. The State cannot allow 21,000 chronic alcohol abusers who were mandated to complete this program to get a pardon. This is a major public safety issue.

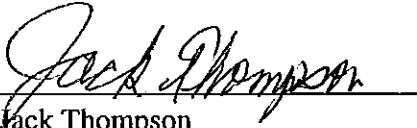
14-227f of the statutes must be reinstated. Without the Multiple Offender Drunken Driving Program, Connecticut has no program designed to address this group of chronic alcohol abusers. Their behaviors must be addressed, and the best way to do so is to take part in a treatment program specifically designed to address these multi-arrests through thorough assessment, education, peer intervention, treatment and aftercare follow-up. Section 3 of H.B. 5553 will assure that we once again have a program in place, and a program that compliments the Ignition Interlock Device law that we passed in June 2011.

There is no cost to the state for this program. The DMV provides address labels of offenders to the organizations that offer the treatment program. All other costs are borne by the offenders.

We urge you to pass H.B. 5553 and rectify this situation. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

  
Henry Genga  
State Representative – 10<sup>th</sup> District

  
Jack Thompson  
State Representative – 13<sup>th</sup> District